

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 YAOUND 03861 201625Z

44

ACTION DLOS-03

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P 201540Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7149

INFO USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T YAOUNDE 3861

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: PAUL ENGO

REF: STATE 274560 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN ENGO'S STATUS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT HIS ABILITY CONTINUE PARTICIPATE IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS. WE SAY THIS WITH CAVEAT THAT GURC HABITUALLY MAINTAINS EXTREME SECRETIVENESS ON BOTH PERSONNEL AND POLICY MATTERS.

2. MOST RECENT CONTACT WITH ENGO WAS NOV 10 WHEN HE WAS BUBBLING OVER ABOUT LOS. HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION THAT HE WAS FINALLY SUCCEEDING, AFTER YEARS OF EFFORT, IN GETTING INTER-MINISTERIAL LOS COMMITTEE ORGANIZED WITHIN GURC SO THAT GURC WOULD HENCEFORTH BE ABLE BETTER TO ANALYZE ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS IN LOS MATTERS AND ENLARGE ITS DELEGATION AT CONFERENCE. SAID HE HIMSELF TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES AS COMMITTEE ONE CHAIRMAN TO ACT EFFECTIVELY AS CAMEROON REPRESENTATIVE WITHOUT BACKSTOPPING FROM ADEQUATELY STAFFED CAMDEL. THERE WAS NOTHING IN ANY OF THIS TO IMPLY REDUCTION ENGO

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SECRET

PAGE 02 YAOUND 03861 201625Z

ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN FACT ENGO MENTIONED HIS CONTINUED

EXPECTATION OF CONVENING INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN YAOUNDE.

3. FORMER DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE (IRIC) AT YAOUNDE UNIVERSITY NAMED VICE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN GURC CABINET SHUFFLE JUNE 30. NO REPLACEMENT YET NAMED. ENGO ASSOCIATED WITH IRIC (TEACHES TWO COURSES THERE, APPARENTLY FOR EXTRA PAY) IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL ADVISER POSITION AT FONMIN. IT NOT RPT NOT BEYOND IMAGINATION THAT ENGO COULD BE NAMED NEW IRIC DIRECTOR -- WE HAVE HEARD CASUAL SUGGESTION TO THIS EFFECT -- BUT HE COULD EASILY MOVE TO IRIC JOB (IF SO ASSIGNED) AND CONTINUE HIS ROLE IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS (UNLESS GURC WANTED WITHDRAW HIM FROM LATTER FOR REASONS OF ITS OWN). ENGO COULD OF COURSE BE TRANSFERRED TO SOME OTHER POST IN YAOUNDE OR ABROAD, WHICH MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH CONTINUING LOS ROLE.

4. RE ENGO'S STATUS IN FONMIN, HE IS TECHNICALLY NUMBER FOUR MAN, AFTER MINISTER, VICE MINISTER, AND SEC GEN. BUT HE IS MERELY A SPECIAL PROJECTS ADVISER, AND COMPLETELY OUT OF FLOW OF MINISTRY'S REGULAR WORK. AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE, HE DOES VERY LITTLE WITHIN MINISTRY OTHER THAN RUN HIS ONE-MAN LOS SHOW WHICH TO DATE HAS NOT BEEN OF MUCH INTEREST TO GURC AS A MATTER OF LOCAL CONCERN. ENGO SEEMS MORE OCCUPIED WITH TEACHING AT IRIC THAN OTHER WORK AT MINISTRY. ENGO CARRIES NO WEIGHT WITHIN GURC, EXCEPT POSSIBLY IN REFLECTION OF ROLE AND PERCEIVED REPUTATION IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS.

5. WHILE IT IMPOSSIBLE FORESEE WHAT CHANGES MAY BE IN STORE FOR ENGO, WE HAVE NO BASIS AT THIS TIME TO PREDICT ANY CHANGE IN HIS STANDING OR HIS ROLE. BUT LOTS OF THINGS HAPPEN HERE BEHIND THE SCENES WHICH AFFECT THE STANDING OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS. NOT ONLY FOREIGN OBSERVERS, BUT INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED FIND OUT ABOUT SHIFTS BY KEEPING THEIR RADIOS TUNED IN TO LOCAL STATION. AS EMBASSY HAS NOTED SEVERAL TIMES PREVIOUSLY IN PAST TWO YEARS, ENGO IS CAMEROON'S KEY (INDEED ONLY) MAN IN LOS MATTER AND GURC IS HAPPY TO SEE ONE OF ITS OWN PEOPLE SHINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. IF ITS JUDGEMENT WERE THAT THE PERSON CONCERNED WERE MORE A SOURCE OF SHAME THAN PRIDE, THEN GURC MIGHT BE MOVED TO REMOVE THE BLOT. BUT
SECRET

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PAGE 03 YAOUND 03861 201625Z

NOTHING HAS SURFACED RPT SURFACED TO INDICATE THAT KIND OF NEGATIVE JUDGEMENT IN THIS CASE. BY DEFINITION, THE POSSIBILITY ALWAYS REMAINS.
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